



State of Arizona
Department of Education

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Public Instruction

TO: SRSA Grantees

FROM: Nancy Konitzer
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RE: Small and Rural Schools Achievement (SRSA) Program

The US Department of Education (ED) REAP office has sent some information that may answer the most frequently asked questions regarding the Small and Rural Schools Achievement (SRSA) Program. I will use this format to communicate SRSA Program information throughout the school year to LEAs in Arizona that have received the SRSA grant.

Which LEAs received funding? How much?

The list of all AZ LEAs that received SRSA funds and their allocations is now posted on the ADE REAP web page at www.ade.az.gov/asd/REAP as well as on the ED web site.

How was the amount determined?

The statutory (Section 6212) allocation formula is:

The number of students in average daily attendance (ADA) above 50, multiplied by \$100,
PLUS \$20,000 (up to a maximum amount of \$60,000),
MINUS the sum of the allocations in the FY2002 for:
Title II- Eisenhower Program
Title IV- Safe and Drug Free Schools
Title VI- Innovative Programs
Class-Size Reduction Program, then
RATABLY REDUCE amount by approximately 18%.

Some LEAs questioned the amount received. The most common computing errors were:

- o Not applying the 18% ratable reduction,
- o Not capping the initial amount at \$60,000, prior to the subtraction, and
- o Not subtracting the previous year's funding from the appropriate sources.

When will I get my money?

The mailing of the grant award notifications by ED to grantees was completed September 30. The contact person who entered the information into the ED's eGrants System should be receiving the information. Please check with your mail distribution persons and alert them to look for this packet. It contains several forms that need to be completed in order for the USED to process your grant award and send payment.

Can I withdraw the entire grant in one payment?

The answer to this question is NO, with a few exceptions. There is an EDGAR requirement that recipients must minimize the period between transfer of funds and disbursement by the grantee. In other words, LEAs may transfer only enough funds to meet immediate needs. When requesting funding, they will be asked to certify that the funds will be expended within three business days of deposit in their bank account. Exceptions may be made in cases where, for example, the LEA is buying equipment with the REAP funds and will use the funds within 3 days to pay the invoice. Even then, it is likely that the request will trigger an inquiry from ED.

How can I use the funds?

The authorized uses of funds are specified in block 10 of the Grant Award Notification and in section 6212(a) of *No Child Left Behind (NCLB)*:

(a) IN GENERAL- The Secretary is authorized to award grants to eligible local educational agencies to enable the local educational agencies to carry out activities authorized under any of the following provisions:

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| (1) Part A of Title I. | (4) Part A or B of Title IV. |
| (2) Part A or D of Title II. | (5) Part A of Title V |
| (3) Title III. | |

Reminder: *These funds may not be used to supplant services already funded through local or state funds.*

You may supplement any activities that you are currently funding with your regular NCLB funds or initiate new supplemental activities that are allowable under any of the Titles listed above.

DO NOT add these funds to your ADE Consolidated NCLB Application. They must be accounted for separately. As with any federal grant funds, the LEA must maintain adequate documentation of program components and activities for a period of three years for local dissemination, evaluation purposes, and program audit and review.

How can I continue to receive SRSA funds?

In your NCLB Interim Consolidated Plan, you should identify the achievement goal(s) the LEA expects to support by the SRSA Program activities. Your annual program evaluation should determine the effectiveness of the use of SRSA funds in meeting the targets set for your achievement goals.

The ADE is required to evaluate all SRSA LEAs at the end of three years of SRSA participation and determine whether the LEA has made adequate yearly progress (AYP). The definition of AYP will be determined under AZ LEARNS and will be based mainly on student achievement in mathematics and reading. The ADE will allow LEAs that fail to make AYP after three years to continue to participate only if the funds are used for school improvement activities.